

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 064767

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ORIGIN EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OES-02 CIAE-00 EA-06 EUR-08 INR-05

L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /045 R

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064767

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, TECH

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS TO COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES

1. SECTION 411 OF THE TRADE ACT PROVIDES FOR REPORTING TO
EAST-WEST FOREIGN TRADE BOARD EXPORTS OF TECHNOLOGY VITAL
TO U.S. "NATIONAL INTEREST." STANDARD OF NATIONAL INTEREST
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PAGE 02 STATE 064767

IS BROADER THAN POLICY SET OUT IN EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT

OF CONTROLLING TECHNOLOGY THAT WOULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO MILITARY POTENTIAL DETRIMENTAL TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY.

2. WE ARE CURRENTLY EXAMINING METHODS OF DEFINING AND ANALYZING EFFECTS OF TECHNOLOGY SALES TO USSR AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF U.S. ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY INTERESTS. (WE INCLUDE IN THIS BOTH PURE TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY EMBODIED IN EQUIPMENT EXPORTS OR PROJECTS WHICH ONCE OBTAINED COULD BE MORE WIDELY APPLIED.)

3. WE HAVE LIMITED KNOWLEDGE ON POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF OTHER LEADING WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN THIS RESPECT. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S APPRAISAL OF HOST GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDES TOWARD HIGH TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS TO EAST, INCLUDING IF POSSIBLE ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING:

A. DOES HOST GOVERNMENT MAKE ANY EFFORT TO SCREEN PROPOSED

TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS, ASIDE FROM REGULAR STRATEGIC EXPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES, AND ON WHAT BASIS? DO ANY INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS EXIST FOR THIS PURPOSE?

B. ARE PARTICULAR TECHNOLOGY EXPORT PROPOSALS JUDGED FROM STANDPOINT OF LONGER RANGE TRADE EFFECT, BOTH POSITIVE AND ADVERSE, E.G. WHETHER HELPING TO UPGRADE PRODUCTION IN A COMMUNIST COUNTRY MIGHT LEAD TO FURTHER BUSINESS DEALS IN ONE CASE OR, IN ANOTHER, TO DAMAGING COMPETITION IN DOMESTIC OR THIRD COUNTRY MARKETS?

C. DOES THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER IT FEASIBLE TO LINK TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS TO ACHIEVEMENT OF PARTICULAR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR MILITARY OBJECTIVES, IN OTHER WORDS TO USE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AS LEVERAGE IN OTHER AREAS?

D. ARE LOCAL ATTITUDES ON ABOVE POINTS CHANGING OR LIKELY TO CHANGE IN NEAR FUTURE?

4. DISCREET, LOW KEY INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IF CONSIDERED DESIRABLE. SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 064767

MAKE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE NOT RE-EXAMINING ADEQUACY OF STRATEGIC CONTROLS OVER TECHNOLOGY WHICH ALREADY ADDRESSED THROUGH COCOM, BUT MORE GENERAL POLICIES ON TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS TO EAST.

5. REQUEST AT LEAST PRELIMINARY REPLY BY APRIL 4. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, POLICIES, EAST WEST TRADE, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE064767
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750101-0391
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750326/aaaaaxeu.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 JUN 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES
TAGS: EEWT, TECH
To: LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006